

"What Is a Plaintiff?" and Other Common Legalese

What Is a Plaintiff?

A plaintiff is the person that brings the case to court. It may also be the "state" or even the federal government in some cases. In a personal injury case, the victim is most often the plaintiff.

THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
90,500
TIMES*
A MONTH

THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
246,500
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is a Subpoena?

A subpoena is an official piece of paper that tells a non-defendant that they must appear on behalf of one of the parties and act as a witness.

THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
18,100
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is a Deposition?

In a deposition, you are asked questions just as you would be in court, but you are recorded in a lawyer or judge's office and your testimony is entered as evidence during the proceedings.

THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
246,500
TIMES*
A MONTH

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THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
5,400
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is Comparative Negligence?

In states that have comparative negligence laws, both parties share fault, though one is "the most" at fault. If you had any part in your accident, your award will be reduced by that percentage.

THIS TERM IS
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8,100
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is Compensation?

Compensation is the dollar amount you are seeking in your personal injury case. You may seek compensation for lost wages and more. This term is often interchanged with "damages."

THIS TERM IS
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27,100
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is Duty of Care?

In personal injury cases that involve negligence, duty is the obligation that the other party, typically the defendant, to provide care. Breaching this duty can lead to legal action.

THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
12,100
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is Gross Negligence?

When someone behaves in such a reckless manner that they have disregarded the health or safety of another person, they are said to have been grossly or willfully negligent.

THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
14,800
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is Medical Malpractice?

When medical mistakes lead to the injury of a patient, it is said to be medical malpractice. This may include surgical errors, misdiagnosis, failure to diagnose or medication errors.

THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
1,800
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is Preponderance of Evidence?

Criminal cases require proof beyond a reasonable doubt. A civil case requires that the plaintiff has preponderance of evidence. This means that you have more proof than the other side.

THIS TERM IS
GOOGLED
90,500
TIMES*
A MONTH

What Is the Statute of Limitations?

A statute of limitations is the time in which you have to file a lawsuit in a personal injury case. For example, you may have two years from the date of your injury to file a lawsuit.

*Average monthly searches across all locations

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